



## SUCCESS STORY

### Educational Materials Empower Students to Adopt Healthy Habits

**School uses water, health and sanitation materials to promote student enrollment**



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Pictured: In Uganda, Lake Victoria Primary Seven students play the *Break the Chains* board game from *Healthy Water Healthy Habits Healthy People* KIDs activity booklet.

***“Students started asking teachers ‘Where is soap?’ after learning the Hand Washing Song.”***

***-Aggrey Oluka, Teacher, Lake Victoria School, Entebbe, Uganda***

In 2007, prior to the introduction of Project WET water, health and sanitation education materials at the Lake Victoria Primary School in Entebbe, Uganda, limited hand washing systems and availability of water led to a cholera outbreak (a disease preventable by proper hand washing) that spread quickly through the student population. The outbreak devastated enrollment at the school when the student body dropped from over 2,000 students to only 400 in a matter of months.

Since adopting Project WET materials in 2008, coupled with the addition of health and sanitation lessons into existing curriculum, teachers and the headmaster have noticed students more frequently washing their hands and exercising improved personal hygiene. “Students started asking teachers, ‘Where is the soap?’ after learning the Hand Washing Song,” reports Aggrey Oluka, the school’s science teacher. A previously unused water tank also has been utilized, providing an additional location for students to wash their hands.

Students requested increased access to clean water, and the school administrators answered by setting up a large station where they boil water for students’ daily drinking-water needs. Future plans include student involvement and construction of “Tippy-Taps” (hand washing stations), using an activity from Project WET’s Educators Guide (*Hand Washing How To*), at the girls’ and boys’ bathrooms. Increased enrollment (with an increase in the number of teachers), ready access to boiled water for consumption and multiple hand-washing stations are additional positive changes at the school.

Project WET’s *Healthy Water, Healthy Habits, Healthy People* resources, developed in conjunction with USAID and African water experts, include four water education components: an Educators Guide, two Kids In Discovery series (KIDs) student activity booklets and an interactive poster. Use of these colorful and fact-filled materials is helping Lake Victoria School provide students with the education necessary to exercise basic health-and hygiene-related habits that, in turn, prevent many water-borne diseases. Through cooperation with local partners, Project WET materials have been distributed to 1,000 schools in 13 sub-Saharan countries, reaching an estimated 830,000 students.